

Abstract

[0041] A system and method that prioritizes product lots for fabrication and dispatching to manufacturing equipment establishes priorities for dispatching product lots based on a criticality factor and establishes a priority for dispatching product lots to manufacturing equipment based on processing capability and the efficiency of manufacturing equipment. A computer integrated manufacturing system executes a program process that functions as a lot dispatcher and a priority factor calculator. The lot dispatcher is in communication with an order entry system to receive requests for fabrication and with a process information system to receive procedures defining which manufacturing equipment is required. A manufacturing information system provides the lot dispatcher with a criticality factor and a queue level for each piece of manufacturing equipment. Then the current group of pieces of manufacturing equipment is followed with a balanced loading.